

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 G06F17/60

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, INSPEC, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 245 656 A (LOEB SHOSHANA K ET AL) 14 September 1993 (1993-09-14) * Abstract * figure 1 column 1, line 67 - column 2, line 11 claims 1-14	1-13
A	US 5 884 282 A (ROBINSON GARY B) 16 March 1999 (1999-03-16) * Abstract *claims 1-18 figures 1-5 column 2, line 11 - line 57	1-13
A	US 6 438 579 B1 (HOSKEN BENJAMIN E) 20 August 2002 (2002-08-20) * Abstract * claims 1-13; figures 1-7	1-13

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

24 November 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

06/12/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
 Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Daman, M

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5245656	A	14-09-1993	NONE	
US 5884282	A	16-03-1999	US 5790426 A	04-08-1998
US 6438579	B1	20-08-2002	AU 5934900 A	05-02-2001
			EP 1200902 A2	02-05-2002
			JP 2003522993 T	29-07-2003
			WO 0106398 A2	25-01-2001